

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 10-12, 18-21 and 26-30 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus comprising a first member having an electron-emitting device and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device to emit light and an anode to which a first voltage higher than a second voltage applied to the electron-emitting device is applied, said method comprising the steps of:

seal-bonding a first member having an electron-emitting device and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device to emit light and an anode to which a first voltage higher than a second voltage applied to the electron-emitting device is applied, the first and second members in a seal bonding chamber in which a vacuum atmosphere is realized; and

performing an aging step for aging the electron-emitting device without applying the first voltage to the anode before the step of seal-bonding.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein, after the aging step is performed, without exposing the electron-emitting device to an external environment, the step of seal-bonding is performed.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the aging step is performed under a condition that a pressure of not more than  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  Pa is set in a region where the electron-emitting device exists.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein, after the aging step is performed, a pressure of substantially not more than  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  Pa is maintained in the region where the electron-emitting device exists until an isolated space is formed between the first and second members in the seal bonding step.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the aging step is performed while a partial pressure of an organic substance in the region where the electron-emitting device exists is set at not more than  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  Pa.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein, after the aging step is performed, a partial pressure of an organic substance in the region where the electron-emitting device exists is maintained at substantially not more than  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  Pa until an isolated space is formed between the first and second members in the seal bonding step.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the aging step comprises the step of applying a voltage to the electron-emitting device.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein, in the step of applying the voltage, a value of the voltage is larger than a normal driving voltage value applied to the electron-emitting device at an image display operation.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the aging step comprises the step of causing the electron-emitting device to emit an electron.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus comprising a first member having an electron-emitting device and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device to emit light, said method comprising:

a step of seal-bonding a first member having an electron-emitting device and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device to emit light the first and second members in a seal bonding chamber in which a vacuum atmosphere is realized,

wherein a step for aging the electron-emitting device is performed before the step of seal-bonding, and

further comprising a panel getter step performed between the aging step and the seal-bonding step.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus comprising a first member having an electron-emitting device and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device to emit light, said method comprising:

a step of seal-bonding a first member having an electron-emitting device and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device to emit light the first and second members in a seal bonding chamber in which a vacuum atmosphere is realized,

wherein a step for aging the electron-emitting device is performed before the step of seal-bonding, and

further comprising an electron beam cleaning step conducted before the aging step.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus comprising a first member having a plurality of electron-emitting devices and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting devices to emit light and an anode to which a first voltage higher than a second voltage applied to the electron-emitting devices is applied, said method comprising the steps of:

seal-bonding a first member having a plurality of electron-emitting devices and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting devices to emit light and an anode to which a first voltage higher than a second voltage applied to the electron-emitting devices is applied the first and second members in a seal bonding chamber in which a vacuum atmosphere is realized; and

before the seal-bonding step, performing a characteristic adjustment step of selectively adjusting characteristics of the plurality of electron-emitting devices without applying the first voltage to the anode.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein, after the characteristic adjustment step is performed, without exposing the electron-emitting device to the atmosphere, the step of seal-bonding is performed.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the characteristic adjustment step is performed under a condition that while a partial pressure of an organic

substance in the region where the electron-emitting device exists is set at no more than  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  Pa.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein, the characteristic adjustment step comprises the step of applying a voltage to the electron-emitting device.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein in the step of applying the voltage, a value of the voltage is larger than a normal driving voltage value applied to the electron-emitting device at an image display operation.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the characteristic adjustment step comprises the step of causing the electron-emitting device to emit an electron.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus comprising a first member having a plurality of electron-emitting devices and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting devices to emit light, said method comprising:

a step of seal-bonding ~~a first member having a plurality of electron-emitting devices and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting devices to emit light~~ the first and second members in a seal bonding chamber in which a vacuum atmosphere is realized,

wherein, before the step of seal-bonding, the characteristic adjustment step of selectively adjusting characteristics of the plurality of electron-emitting device is performed, and

further comprising a panel getter step performed between the characteristic adjustment step and the seal-bonding step.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus comprising a first member having a plurality of electron-emitting devices and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting devices to emit light, said method comprising:

~~a step of seal-bonding a first member having a plurality of electron-emitting devices and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting devices to emit light the first and second members~~ in a seal bonding chamber in which a vacuum atmosphere is realized,

wherein, before the step of seal-bonding, the characteristic adjustment step of selectively adjusting characteristics of the plurality of electron-emitting device is performed, and

further comprising an electron beam cleaning step performed before the characteristic adjustment step.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus comprising a first member having an electron-emitting device subjected to an activation process and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron

emitted from the electron-emitting device and an anode to which a first voltage higher than a second voltage applied to the electron emitting device is applied to emit light, said method comprising the steps of:

seal-bonding a ~~first member having an electron-emitting device subjected to an activation process and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device and an anode to which a first voltage higher than a second voltage applied to the electron-emitting device is applied to emit light~~ the first and second members in a seal bonding chamber in which a vacuum atmosphere is realized; and

before the step of seal-bonding, performing a voltage application step of applying a voltage to the electron-emitting device subjected to the activation process without applying the first voltage to the anode.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus comprising a first member having an electron-emitting device having a carbon and/or carbon compound at and/or near an electron-emitting portion and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device to emit light and an anode to which a first voltage higher than a second voltage applied to the electron-emitting device is applied, said method comprising the steps of:

seal-bonding a ~~first member having an electron-emitting device having a carbon and/or carbon compound at and/or near an electron-emitting portion and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device to emit light and an anode to which a first voltage higher than a second voltage~~

~~applied to the electron-emitting device is applied~~ the first and second members in a seal bonding chamber in which a vacuum atmosphere is realized; and

before the step of seal-bonding, performing a voltage application step of applying a voltage to the electron-emitting device having carbon and/or a carbon compound at the electron-emitting portion and/or near the electron-emitting portion without applying the first voltage to the anode.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 20, wherein, after the voltage application step is performed, without exposing the electron-emitting device to the atmosphere, the step of seal-bonding is performed.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 20, wherein the voltage application step is performed under a condition that a partial pressure of an organic substance in the region where the electron-emitting device exists is set at not more than  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  Pa.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 20, wherein, in the voltage application step, a value of the voltage is larger than a normal driving voltage value applied to the electron-emitting device at an image display operation.

25. (Original) A method according to claim 20, wherein the voltage application step comprises the step of causing the electron-emitting device to emit an electron.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus comprising a first member having an electron-emitting device subjected to an activation process and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device to emit light, said method comprising:

a step of seal-bonding a first member having an electron-emitting device subjected to an activation process and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device to emit light the first and second members in a seal bonding chamber in which a vacuum atmosphere is realized,

wherein before the step of seal-bonding, a voltage application step of applying a voltage to the electron-emitting device subjected to the activation process is performed, and

further comprising a panel getter step performed between the voltage application step and the seal-bonding step.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus comprising a first member having an electron-emitting device subjected to an activation process and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device to emit light, said method comprising:

a step of seal-bonding a first member having an electron-emitting device subjected to an activation process and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device to emit light the first and second members in a seal bonding chamber in which a vacuum atmosphere is realized,

wherein before the step of seal-bonding, a voltage application step of applying a voltage to the electron-emitting device subjected to the activation process is performed, and

further comprising an electron beam cleaning step performed before the voltage application step.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus comprising a first member having an electron-emitting device and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device to emit light and having an anode to which a first voltage higher than a second voltage applied to the electron-emitting device is applied, said method comprising the steps of:

seal-bonding ~~a first member having an electron-emitting device and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device to emit light and having an anode to which a first voltage higher than a second voltage applied to the electron-emitting device is applied~~ the first and second members in a seal bonding chamber in which a vacuum atmosphere is realized; and

before the step of seal-bonding, performing a voltage application step of applying, to the electron-emitting device, a voltage having a voltage value larger than a normal driving voltage value applied to the electron-emitting device at an image display operation without applying the first voltage to the anode.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus comprising a first member having an electron-emitting device and a second member

having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device to emit light, said method comprising:

the step of seal-bonding ~~a first member having an electron-emitting device and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device to emit light~~ the first and second members in a seal bonding chamber in which a vacuum atmosphere is realized; and

wherein, before the step of seal-bonding, the voltage application step of applying, to the electron-emitting device, a voltage having a voltage value larger than a normal driving voltage value applied to the electron-emitting device at an image display operation is performed, and

further comprising a panel getter step performed between the voltage application step and the seal-bonding step.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus comprising a first member having an electron-emitting device and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device to emit light, said method comprising:

the step of seal-bonding ~~a first member having an electron-emitting device and a second member having a phosphor which is irradiated with an electron emitted from the electron-emitting device to emit light~~ the first and second members in a seal bonding chamber in which a vacuum atmosphere is realized,

wherein, before the step of seal-bonding, the voltage application step of applying, to the electron-emitting device, a voltage having a voltage value larger than a normal

driving voltage value applied to the electron-emitting device at an image display operation is performed, and

further comprising an electron beam cleaning step performed before the voltage application step voltage.